THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for rise in HIV positive persons are as under: -

- Low awareness of people about HIV/AIDS in the country, especially rural and female population in the highly vulnerable states;
- High proportion of migrant population;
- Inadequate safe sex practices; and
- Large number of vulnerable population.

National AIDS Control Organization conducted National Baseline General Population behavioural surveillance survey in 2001. The findings revealed that 76% of the respondents had heard of HIV/AIDS and 46.8% of respondents were aware of two important methods of prevention and transmission, 11.8% of males and 2% of females reported sex with non-regular partners while only 51.2% among males and 39.8% among females have reported using condoms during the last sex with their non-regular sex partners.

(c) Emerging from the Summit, were the following steps and action points-

(i) All 25 Executives from Media Companies who attended signed a statement of support pledging to work together to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS.

(ii) To ensure synergy of media efforts and identify opportunities, share resources and co-ordinate the entire media effort with NACO.

(iii) New Commitments were made by several attending Media Leaders, including Dainik Jainik, Hindustan Times, MTV, NDTV, Prasar Bharti, SET India, STAR TV, SUN TV, Hindu and Zee TV. .

Spurious Medicine's Trade Centres

569. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the remedial measures and actions taken so far in connection with Bhagirath Place in Delhi which runs a clandestine empire in spurious

medicines and drugs which the Confederation of Indian Industries has identified the area as the main distribution centre and probably the main production centre for spurious medicines and drugs and as one of three main centres of Rs. 4000 crores worth of spurious medicines trade in the country; and

(b) the action taken regarding identification of such centres elsewhere in the country and details of action taken against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the feed back available from the Drugs Control Department, Govt, of NCT of Delhi, the perception of the Confederation of Indian Industries regarding the extent of prevalence of spurious drugs in Bhagirath Place is not commensurate with facts. From the data of samples collected and the drugs found spurious the percentage of which varies between 0.13 to 0.28, it cannot be said that the Bhagirath Palace is the main distribution center for spurious drugs. Also there is no specific instance of manufacturing of spurious drugs being detected in Bhagirath Place. The Drugs Control Department of Delhi, has however been taking various measures given in Statement (See below) to have a surveillance in the Bhagirath place wholesale market of drugs.

(b) (i) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including taking legal action against the guility persons rest with the State Governments.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs and detailed guidelines have been provided for this purpose.

(iii) Training programmes for regulatory officials of State Governments on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. has been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra.

(iv) In order to ensure efficient information exchange among drug regulatory offices in the country, countrywide computer-networking project has been undertaken by the Central Government.

(v) Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight meance of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility.

(vi) As per feedback available from the State Drug Controllers 538,449 and 570 prosecutions were launched whereas 171, 105 and 166 cases were decided during the period 2001 -02,2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

Statement

Measures taken by the Drugs Control Department, Govt, of NCT of Delhi to contain the menace of spurious drugs

1. Routine inspection, special inspection and raids are carried out by the Drugs Inspectors of the Department regularly in the wholesale market of Bhagirath Place. Drugs Inspectors of Govt, of India are sometime associated in the special inspection programme in Bhagirath Place. The assistance of Delhi Police is taken during a raid whenever necessary. Samples of drugs are taken at random to have a test check on the quality of drugs moving in the market. Details of samples of drugs taken from Bhagirath Place, Delhi during the period 2003—05 (upto 31/01/05) are as under

Year drawn	No. of samples	No. of test report received	No. of samples reported as spurious
2002-03	748	742	01(0.13%)
2003-04	420	351*	01 (0.28%)*
2004-05 (as on 31/01/05)	120	02	Nil

*These figures are updated up to 31/01/2005.

2. Survey samples of drugs are taken at random from different shops in Bhagirath Place and other areas through decoy customers/watchers for quick screening for identification of the active medicament. During the period 2003-04 & 2004-05 (upto 31-1-2005), 5349 survey samples were taken from various dealers located in Bhagirath Place and other parts of Delhi but none of the survey samples tested negative for active medicament

In Bhagirath Place, the dealers who were not found maintaining purchase/sale records have been proceeded against under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and licenses of several dealers have been suspended. Apart from this, the Department at times, also forward the cases to the Sales Tax Deptt. for any evasion/violation of Sales tax Act, Delhi.